GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2354
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2000
ACUTE SHORTAGE OF POWER IN BIHAR
RENU KUMARI SINGH

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is likely to be an acute shortage of power in rest of Bihar due to the transfer of 63 percent of power capacity to Jharkhand area;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to resolve the power problems in rest of Bihar;

(c) whether the Government propose to upgrade and rehabilitate thermal power stations in Barauni and Muzaffarpur and set up power station in Navin Nagar and small hydro power projects in Bihar;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA)

(a) & (b) : At present, Bihar State Electricity Board continues to be the overall agency forsupply of power in both Bihar and Jharkhand areas. Generally, Bihar meets its demand by drawing additional power from Eastern Grid. Although generating power stations in the state sector with installed capacity of about 70% of the total capacity of the combined Bihar State are located in Jharkhand State, the shortfall in rest of Bihar could be met by additional allocation/drawal from the central sector generating stations in the Eastern Region. Eastern Region as a whole of which Jharkhand and Bihar are constituent States has adequate power, isavailable for supply to the deficit states of the region including the State of Bihar. The power shortage in the State is attributable mainly to the inadequacies in the transmission and distribution system of the State and the State`s inability to pay for additional power from central sector.

(c) to (e) : The renovation and modernization programmes in respect of Barauni and Muzaffarpur Thermal Power Stations have already been undertaken and are under progress. Navi Nagar Thermal Power Project (2x500 MW) at Aurangabad, in Bihar was initially conceived by Bihar State Electricity Board.Subsequently, the project was identified under the Mega Power Project Policy. since no private developer came for to develop this project, the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has been advised to consider the technical and commercial feasibility of this project.

Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources (MNES) is supporting 5 small hydro projects in Bihar. In addition, MNES is also supporting detailed survey and investigation for 46 small power projects sites and preparation of DPR for ten projects.